

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNR, MY

SUBJECT:OPRED - PROPOSED INCREASE IN DEA STAFFING FOR FY 75

1. RECENT CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE PROMPTED THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) TO REVISE THE OVERSEAS STAFFING PLAN IT HAD PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED FOR FY 1975. THIS REVISION CONTAINS THE BELOW PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS FOR THE KUALA LUMPUR OFFICE:

--AN INCREASE OF ONE PROFESSIONAL/TECHNICAL POSITION FOR A NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. APPROVAL OF THE ADDITIONAL POSITION WOULD RAISE THE AUTHORIZED DEA AMERICANCOMPLEMENT IN MALAYSIA TO FOUR (2 AGENTS, 1 PROF/TECH INTELLIGENCE, 1 CLERK).

2. FOLLOWING JUSTIFICATION ACCOMPANIES DEA REQUEST FOR THE ADDITIONAL POSITION. QUOTE:

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IN THE LAST NINE MONTHS, NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING PATTERNS OF

SOUTHEAST ASIA HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY. THESE CHANGES, BROUGHT ON PARTLY BECAUSE OF INCREASED ENFORCEMENT PRESSURE

IN BURMA, THAILAND, AND HONG KONG, INCLUDE THE EMERGING OF MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE AS IMPORTANT PROCESSING CENTERS, ESPECIALLY AFFECTING THE TRAFFIC WESTWARD TO EUROPE. AS AN EXAMPLE, IN THE HEAVILY CHINESE SECTION OF IPOH, THERE ARE ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE NOW FOUR SEPARATE HEROIN LABORATORY COMPLEXES IN OPERATION. THE COURIERS BEING ARRESTED IN MAJOR CITIES OF EUROPE ARE NEARLY ALL CHINESE/MALAYSIANS FROM THIS AREA.

THERE IS ALSO RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT HONG KONG BASED TRAFFICKERS ARE MOVING THEIR HEADQUARTERS TO PENANG, MALAYSIA.

BECAUSE OF THESE AND OTHER INDICATIONS, AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH MALAYSIA'S ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES HAS SHOWN MARKED IMPROVEMENT OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS; WE FEEL CREATING A NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE OFFICER POSITION IN KUALA LUMPUR WOULD BE TIMELY AND VALUABLE IN ASSISTING THIS TRAFFIC AND CAUSING ITS INTERDICTION. END QUOTE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. WOULD APPRECIATE COM COMMENTS ON DEA PROPOSAL, INCLUDING ANY IMPACT ON MISSION'S ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT CAPABILITIES AND ANTICIPATED REACTION OF HOST GOVERNMENT. KISSINGER

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